

# ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION BULLETIN BOARD

**PROJECT NAME:** Westwater II Fire Emergency Stabilization Treatment

**NEPA LOG  
NUMBER:** UT-060-2006-131

**FIELD  
OFFICE/CODE:** Moab Field Office – UT-060

**CONTACT:** Brian Keating, 435-259-2194

**DOCUMENT TYPE:**

Categorical Exclusion (CX)		Environmental Assessment (EA)	
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)	X	Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	

**PRIMARY PROGRAM (Place an X for all Programs involved):**

Cultural		Watershed	
Fire/Fuel (ES&R)	X	Wild Horses	
Lands & Realty		Wildlife	
Minerals		Planning	
Range		Paleontology	
Recreation		Woodland/Forestry	
Vegetation		Other:	

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Westwater II fire, ignited by lightning in early June, 2006, occurred in an area in which cheatgrass, Russian annual wheatgrass, halogeton, redstem storksbill and Russian thistle had begun to invade. The ability of these species to proliferate following fire has been well documented, and continued expansion of invasive species into the burned area would alter ecosystem integrity, function, and fire regimes. Short and long-term effects could include: 1) A reduction in the abundance and diversity of native plant species important for wildlife and livestock utilization; 2) An increase and spread of weedy and invasive species; 3) Accelerated loss of soil through wind and water erosion; 4) Potential impacts to water quality and critical fish habitat from sedimentation; 5) The expansion of invasive weed species into a WSA; 6) Increased fire frequency and intensity and; 5) Loss of site productivity.

The stabilization treatment would include the mechanical and/or broadcast seeding of native/non-native grasses and sagebrush in the 2,793 acre burn area. Seed selection would focus on native species except when natives are not available or would not meet resource and management objectives. A portion of the Westwater Canyon WSA would be seeded with native-only seed. Fencing of the entire burn area or parts of the burn area may occur to help limit cattle and wildlife grazing of seeded areas. Monitoring of treatment methods and effectiveness would occur throughout the project area in order to determine the level of

success and lessons learned which could be applied to future ES&R treatments.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION (Township, Range, and Sections):**

T. 20 S., R. 25 E., Sections 19-22 and 27-31; T. 20 S., R. 24 E., Section 25.

**LOCATION DESCRIPTION / OTHER REMARKS:**

Fire occurred near Westwater Canyon and within portions of Westwater Canyon WSA on the benchlands above the Colorado River, approximately ten miles from Cisco, Utah.

**COUNTY(S):**

Grand County

**SPECIAL INTERESTS (Place an X for all Special Interests involved):**

ACEC		T & E	
Critical Habitat		Visual Resources	
Cultural		Designated Wilderness/WSA	
Fire Rehabilitation	X	Wild & Scenic Rivers	
Riparian		Areas with Wilderness Characteristics	

**STATUS OF ACTION / DATE**

6/22/06 Initial ES Plan submitted; DNA ongoing;

7/7/06 Decision Record signed on non-WSA portion of project; WSA portion of project remains in 30-day comment period.

7/27/06 Decision Record signed on WSA portion of project.

**COMMENT PERIOD PROVIDED (Yes or No? If yes, include period dates):**

Yes, 30-day comment period on WSA portion of project from 6/22-7/22/06.

If a comment period is provided, individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.